



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

January 25, 1936

DUCK INVENTORY UNDER WAY
WITH HUNDREDS MAKING COUNTS

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The second annual inventory of migratory waterfowl spending the winter in the United States, which began yesterday (January 24), will be completed tomorrow. The inventory, under the direction of the Bureau of Biological Survey, is being made after long planning and with the largest number of qualified observers ever assembled. Results will not be known until figures are tabulated.

Eight regional directors of the Division of Game Management have assigned estimators to survey definite areas by ground, water, or air. In addition to the regular field personnel of the Survey (U. S. Game Management Agents, District Agents, Refuge Managers and Superintendents, Wildlife Technicians, and others), observers are augmented by state game wardens, personnel from the Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the Bureau of Public Roads, state police officers, observers from certain state colleges, and volunteer observers from the regular list of the Survey, and from the membership of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

Many observers are operating by automobile. The "navy" of patrol boats of the Biological Survey is greatly enlarged by patrol craft of state game commissions by boats of the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection, patrol vessels of the Coast Guard, and by many privately owned power boats.

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The Navy Department, the Coast Guard, and the Connecticut National Guard furnished land planes or seaplanes, and a few interested civilians contributed the use of aircraft, so that all coastal areas are being surveyed from the air as well as from the land or water. The War Department is furnishing a blimp, the "TC-13", stationed at Moffet Field, Calif. The blimp, "Enterprise", is surveying the Potomac River from Washington, D. C., to Point Lookout.

Frederick C. Lincoln, biologist of the Survey who is directing the inventory has eight field armies and a couple of navies thrown in for good measure.

Regional Director W. M. Rush, at Portland, Oreg., reports 106 observers for his region, including men from his own office, the Forest Service, three State Game Departments, a State College, and several volunteer operators, not to mention automobiles, power boats, seaplanes, and the "TC-13".

Regional Director Bertrand E. Smith, at Portland, Maine, has at least an equal number of observers, with Coast Guard Patrol boats, cutters, and seaplanes from Cape May, N. J., Salem, Mass.; from the Navy airports on Long Island, N. Y.; and Chatham, Mass.; and from the air service of the Connecticut National Guard.

Director James Silver, at Washington, D. C., has a field army of 677, composed of his own game-management agents and refuge personnel at points from Maryland to Florida, the wardens of all state game commissions on the southeastern seaboard, a large force of competent volunteer observers, the navy of the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection, several patrol boats from the Coast Guard, and other Federal and State owned craft. For air service he has 12 planes—9 from the Navy Department, 2 from the Coast Guard, and 1 from the Army, in addition to the "Enterprise."

Because of winter weather of unusual severity Director Silver postponed aerial and water surveys in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina until January 28.

Director Don A. Gilchrist, at Albuquerque, N. Mex., covers the vast areas of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona, with 500 federal, state, and volunteer observers, surveying the coastal waters of Texas with 5 patrol boats and seaplanes of the Coast Guard and of civilian volunteers.

Director Roy Moore, at State College, Miss., is surveying the coastal and interior waters of Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi, with federal, state, and civilian observers, and with boats and aircraft from the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, Fla., and from the Coast Guard at Biloxi, Miss.

Even in the interior, Directors Daniel H. Janzen at Lansing, Mich., George Tonkin at Winona, Minn., and Leo L. Laythe at Denver, Colo., have their observation armies in the field, each subdivided into state divisions.

The waterfowl inventory this year is an excellent example of cooperation by federal, state, and private agencies.

Two biologists of the Survey are working in the waterfowl areas of Mexico. When their reports are received the Bureau hopes to have available a reasonably accurate estimate of the continental supply of waterfowl, most of which will in a few months be starting the long flight to their nesting grounds.